



Half termly review

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is ending and what a great 15 weeks it has been. We have welcomed many new children and families to The Willows, we have celebrated a GOOD ofsted report together and the children have all got involved with their learning.

Welcome to Mrs Bowen who joined us at the start of December, who works across our school with all of the children.

As a school we have invested a large amount of money into our computing strategy and the children have been enjoying using the new chrome books to enhance learning across the curriculum as well as specific computing skills. There is more investment happening over the coming year to both enhance and excite opportunities for the children so watch this space.

We have ended the term with our amazing Christmas singing and shows which the staff have worked really hard on to ensure that the children feel confident and the children have performed to the very best of their abilities. Thank you to all the families who came to watch. The children also had a visit from Father Christmas, who told them stories and gave out sweet treats. A massive well done to Maya who came 3rd in the Mayors Christmas card competition.

Please check out our Facebook page and school website to keep up to date on events which happen in school and if you have not yet logged onto School Spider please come into the school office if you require any support.

Have a very Happy Christmas and we will see you all on the 8th January 2024

Best Wishes

Mrs Jo Orbell

Head Teacher



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Overview Of Nursery This Term

SPIDERS.

Spiders have been having a "Roarsome" time exploring dinosaurs for the first part of this term. Our focus stories were "That's not my dinosaur" and "peekaboo dinosaur". The children have enjoyed making; dinosaur masks and tails, salt dough fossils and dinosaur footprint painting. They have also tried hard to free the dinosaurs from the frozen eggs. We have been beginning to use words such as; big, small, spiky, sharp teeth, swishy tails, munch and crunch. The children have begun to play with each other using the dinosaurs in role play adding a simple narrative. It has been lovely to see them use some wonderful language during their play and build on their friendships.

The second part of the term we have been focussing on "The Spirit of Christmas". We begun by reading a lovely simple story about the nativity, naming and talking about the characters. The children learnt about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. They have loved playing with the nativity scene on our interest table, looking through the story cards and using the puppets and wooden figures in their play. We then looked at the stories "Dear Santa" and "We're going on a present hunt". We explored presents by having a different present wrapped up each day. We took it in turns to feel and listen, to guess what the different presents were inside. The children were very excited to see what the object was, we had; bubbles, bells, a ball but their favourite one was the balloon and balloon pump. The children got very excited when we pumped up the balloon then let it go, watching it whizz around the room. The children have loved making; tree decorations, rice crispy cakes, stars, angels and Christmas trees. This has helped them develop lots of skills such as; small motor, concentration, hand eye co-ordination, language and turn taking. The Spider children have had a wonderful term and are a joy to watch as they continue their learning journey.

We wish all our Spider children and Families a very Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.



Overview Of Nursery This Term continued...

This term in nursery we have been learning all about dinosaurs in our Jurassic Park topic. We listened to lots of dinosaur stories, we learned about how dinosaurs might move and about the kind of things they might eat and drink. Nursery enjoyed building a small scale volcano and using vinegar and baking soda to make our own eruptions.

We have also enjoyed learning about different festivals and celebrations. We have made diva lamps to help us celebrate Diwali. We have enjoyed decorating our classroom ready for Christmas and learning lots of Christmas songs. Nursery have made lots of Christmas crafts including cards and Christmas tree decorations. We have been learning about the Nativity story. We even had a special visit from Santa himself, which all of the children (and staff) were very excited about.



Overview of Reception This Term

In reception this term we have learned all about dinosaurs and the spirit of Christmas! Throughout both we had special visitors, one being a dinosaur and one being Santa himself! The children really enjoyed the dinosaur topic we discovered fossils, we created our own fossils and we also made our own dinosaur jeep. We learned a lot of facts and now know that dinosaurs are extinct! We have also learned all about Christmas and how we celebrate it and how around the world it's different. We tasted some yummy traditional Christmas food and learned all about the Nativity story and I'm sure you will agree the children's nativity performance was amazing, they worked so hard! Have a wonderful Christmas!

Overview of KS1 This Term

In KS1 the children have had a very busy term with a range of different topics across the subjects. In English we have taken lots of time perfecting stories about Paddington Bear and putting a twist on a well known text. They loved that Paddington visited Fishermead. We learnt how to write diary entries and we put ourselves in the footsteps of Jack, a homeless boy from the Victorian times. We have also learnt how to write an informal letter. Writing letters to different people including Mrs Orbell.

In Maths we have focused on numbers and we have explored addition and subtraction. Looking at the relationships between fact families. Exploring that if we know $5+3=8$, then $8=3+5$ and $8-5=3$.

At the start of the term we had a special visitor Paddington Bear. We looked at where he had been and travelled to by learning about the world and all the different continents, oceans and also focusing on the UK. Did you know that he went to visit the late Queen. We finished off by comparing his home country of Peru and England.

In our topic children's champion we learnt about Thomas Barnardo and all that he did for children in the Victorian times. He pioneered homes and orphanages for children that needed them. He educated poorer children that could not afford to go to school and gave them opportunities that they potentially would never have. Bringing the divide between rich and poor closer. We learnt about how education was different to our current system. Experiencing a Victorian classroom and some learning from the Victorian times.

We have been learning about the four different seasons, what they look like, when they are and signs to look out for. We have learnt where the northern and south hemisphere are and that the equator separates them. They have learnt that some countries are hotter because they are near the equator and the Poles are colder because they are further away from the equator.

In PE we have learnt a superhero dance, how to play bench and dodge ball and finally started learning how to play hockey. Learning skills like passing, dribbling and shooting.

Well done KS1 and enjoy your well earned rest.

Overview of Foxes This Term

Foxes have been super busy. We started learning about dinosaurs and loved making houses for the dinosaurs outside. We really enjoyed playing with all the different dinosaurs toys and also enjoyed moving and roaring like a dinosaur!

We were very excited when we had a delivery of a Christmas tree, decorations and pretend snow. The children excitedly helped the adults to put up the tree and decorate the whole classroom.

Overview of Foxes This Term continued...

We enjoyed making cards, salt dough decorations, icing biscuits and wrapping presents.

We also worked really hard to learn the song jingle bells and loved shaking the bells alongside. We excitedly sang this to our special guest when he came to visit us.



A really busy, but amazing half term.



Diary Dates

Friday 22nd December - Friday 5th January - Christmas Holidays		
Monday 8th January	8:45am	Children return to school
Starting Wednesday 17th January	3:15-4:15pm	Dodgeball 5 week After School Club (Places to be booked on School Spider)
Starting Monday 22nd January	3:15-4:15pm	Musical Theatre 4 week After School Club (Places to be booked on School Spider)

Attendance

Half Termly Attendance Autumn 2 2023			
Year	Class Name	% Week Commencing 11th December Attendance	% Half termly Attendance
Rec.	Hedgehogs	94.5%	95.4%
KS1	Squirrels	94.6%	94.1%
KS1	Rabbits	93.8%	95.0%
KS1	Owls	97.5% 	96.1% 
Rec. & KS1	Foxes	93.0%	85.1%
Total attendance		94.9%	94.2%

Well done **Owls** with an attendance of **97.5%** for the week beginning **11st December**

Well done **Owls** with an attendance of **96.1%** for half the term

Did you Know:
Lateness also affects your child's attendance %

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

PE KIT

All children need to come into school on their PE day in their PE kit.

Please do not send your child into school wearing non school uniform.

Our PE kit is:

BLACK legging/jogging bottoms or shorts

WHITE round neck t-shirt

Trainers/plimsols



School Applications

Just a reminder if your child is **moving up to year 3** or starting **Reception** in September 2024 you need to apply for a school place online at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions **BEFORE 15th January 2024.**

LATENESS

The gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am for morning registration.

We are still getting a lot of children arriving late for School. By law, it is parents' / carers' responsibility to get their children to school and on time. If your child is continuously late, it can lead to a fine

Children who arrive late at school often:

- Miss vital parts of the lesson
- Disrupt the class when the lesson is underway
- Find it embarrassing entering a class once the lesson has started.

Mrs Larcombe our learning mentor is available to support you with any genuine difficulties you may be having, which may be affecting your child's punctuality.

After School Clubs

We will have 2 after school clubs running next term. Musical Theatre running for 4 Mondays starting 22nd January for £12 and Dodgeball Club running for 5 Wednesdays starting 17th January for £15. These are available to book on School Spider.

FREE Christmas Activity Packs

Campbell Park Community Council have put together some activity packs for children in the Parish aged 4-11 years old.

The packs contain a range of Christmas themed paper-based activities, including colouring sheets, wordsearches, mazes, spot the differences along with some pencils, pens/crayons, as well as some craft items to enable children to make some Christmas decorations & Christmas cards.



We hope the children will find the packs fun and will be enjoyed during the school holiday. We would love to see photos of the children using the packs or photos of the completed activities that we can share. Please send these to the email address above.

**The activity packs can be collected
from Monday 4th December
from our office in Fishermead:**

Campbell Park Community Council Office,
1 Pencarrow Place (behind the Trinity Centre) MK6 2AS
Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm

If you have any queries, please contact admin@campbell-park.gov.uk or tel: 01908 608559
To ensure as many families as possible can benefit from this, please only take one pack per child, while stock lasts.